

Morning Facilitation Guide: 2017 AAR Wildfire Smoke Meeting

Roles

Morning

Facilitator: Meredith

Timekeeper/Wrangler: Dena

Notetaker: Andrea Nick (pay special attention to capturing lessons learned and identified needs to frame afternoon)

Problem Solver: Lauren and Anna

FlipChart Scribe: Charles or someone from ARB

Webinar host and trouble-shooting: Anna (Khoi backup)

Afternoon

Facilitator: Ann Hobbs

Timekeeper/Wrangler: Andrea Nick

Notetaker: Katie

Problem Solver: Lauren and Anna

FlipChart Scribe: Charles or someone from ARB

Webinar host and trouble-shooting: Anna (Dena backup)

8:30 – 9:00 am: MEETING CHECK-IN

- **Katie plus Khoi (?)** downstairs in lobby greeting and bringing people up to the 11th floor conference rooms in groups
- **Lauren and Anna** set up room, webinar, and phone line
- **Meredith, Ann, Lauren, Dena** greet attendees, direct to sign in, direct to break room for refreshments
- **Ryder** will bring up stragglers

9:00 -9:30 am: INTRODUCTIONS AND OPENING REMARKS

Agenda on screen and webinar

Allow up to 5 minutes for people to get settled and finish trickling in

@ 9:05 Logistics (5 min) – Meredith

- Welcome, thanks for coming, thanks to the meeting steering committee team (Charles Pearson, ARB; Ann Hobbs, Placer County; Andrea Nicks, USFS; Deb Harris, North Coast Unified; Eric Stevenson and Kate Hoag, Bay Area; Rod Mendes, Hoopa Valley Tribe; and US EPA R9's Wildfire Smoke Team)
- Before we get started let's cover some logistics:

- Bathrooms out the door to the right
- Breakroom + water + coffee + refreshments out the door, left, and through the door
- Evacuation Procedures: In case of an emergency listen to any instructions on the PA system. We will either evacuate 4 floors down or out the building completely. Take the stairs in any emergency event. In the case of a full evacuation, we will meet at Yerba Buena Gardens at 3rd and Howard to ensure everyone is accounted for. In the case of an active shooter, the Department of Homeland Security recommends run, hide, fight in that order.
- Leaving and re-entering building: If you need to leave the building make sure you have your sticker with you that you were given upon checking in. Those with federal smart cards will be allowed to re-enter without further screening. All others will need to show sticker, ID, and pass through the screening machines. Depending on other events in the building there may occasionally be a long line to get back in though usually it is quick.

@ 9:10 Frame the Day (5 minutes) – Meredith

- ***Brief Summary of stats for wildfire “season” 2017 (slide 1)***
 - In 2017, 9,133 fires burned roughly 1.4 million acres in California, an area larger than the entire state of Delaware.
 - There were 19 fires that burned at least 15,000 acres each, including large fires in far northern CA, near Santa Barbara/San Luis Obispo, the North Bay and Southern California fires
 - For comparison, last year there were 8 fires of that size
 - 2017 is well above average in total acreage and slightly above average in number of fires for CA, compared to the last 15 years
 - Greatest total acreage since 2008
 - 2017 also bears the distinction of having seen both the largest and the most deadly wildfires ever recorded in State history.
- ***Air Quality Impacts for wildfire season 2017 (slide 2)***
 - This figure shows a sampling of the air quality impacts of large fires across CA in 2017.
 - Let me orient you to the figure:
 - The orange-red dots represent the location and relative size of the fires
 - The largest size dot corresponds to fires >100,000 acres. The second largest dots correspond to fires between 50,000 and 100,000 acres. The next size down is 25,000-50,000 acres, and 15,000-25,000 acre fires are the smallest shown. (Fires below 15,000 acres are not shown on this figure to focus on the larger impacts.)
 - The triangles are PM2.5 monitor locations – blue are regulatory and gray are non-regulatory.
 - The call-out graphs show daily max PM2.5 levels (the blue lines) at various locations around the state and the red lines show time frame of various fires.
 - Some take aways:
 - Large fires were dispersed throughout the state
 - Exceedances and fire-related impacts on air quality occurred between July and December, and many areas felt impacts from multiple different fires
 - The largest air quality impacts are seen at the Ojai monitor during the Thomas and Creek fires.

- For many fires, the highest PM2.5 concentrations are usually seen within the first few days, highlighting the importance of a quick response with respect to air quality
- ***After Action Review and Lessons Learned***
Given the significant wildfire smoke impacts and challenges of this year we thought it would be extremely important to do an after-action review to hear lessons learned from two of the most significant fires in State history – the North County fires coming in among the most destructive in State History and the Thomas Fire coming in as the largest in State history; remarkable for a December fire.
- ***What worked/what didn't work***
In the morning, as we listen to the experiences of our peers responding to the smoke impacts of those fires, and we think and talk about the experiences of our own agencies this year grappling with wildfire smoke impacts, we are going to hear some clear themes about what worked well and what didn't work so well.
- ***Preparing for 2018 Wildfires***
After lunch, Ann Hobbs from Placer will facilitate a discussion that will help us clarify and prioritize our needs for 2018, building off those lessons learned in 2017, so that we can have a stronger and better coordinated wildfire smoke response that meets the needs of the air quality agencies in California and the communities we are serving.
- ***Next Steps***
Before getting to introductions, I wanted to give Charles Pearson from Air Resources Board a moment to talk about next steps and CARPA:

@9:15: Next Steps and CARPA (2 min) – Charles Pearson, ARB

- ***Plans for reviving CARPA however you want to frame that***

@9:17: Introductions (13 min) – Meredith (or Lauren?)

- ***Name and Organization***
- ***Room***
- ***Phone (call by affiliation: Federal, State, Local (North, Central, South), others?)***

9:30 – 10:45 AM: SETTING THE STAGE: EXPERIENCES AND LESSONS LEARNED

@9:30: Eric Stevenson, BAAQMD Presentation (30 minutes) – Meredith Facilitates

- Introduce Eric Stevenson
- Lessons learned from the North County Fires in October
- Take 1 or 2 questions at the end as Santa Barbara presentation gets set up, but save most for after both presentations

@10:00: Lyz Hoffman, Santa Barbara County APCD (30 minutes)

- Introduce, on phone/webinar (Public Information Officer for Santa Barbara County APCD)
- Lessons learned from the Thomas Fire in December (still not fully contained)

@10:30: Q&A for Presenters – Meredith Facilitates (15 minutes)

@10:45: fifteen minute break

- Reminder of break room, coffee downstairs past elevator banks, bathroom locations
- Be back upstairs by 11:00

@11:00: Sharing other lessons learned (30 minutes)

- **Others have lessons learned**
We just heard some sobering and informative lessons from BAAQMD and Santa Barbara but we know there was virtually no area of the state untouched by wildfire smoke in 2017. So we want to take about 30 minutes to hear lessons learned from other areas to help us focus our afternoon conversation and next steps to prepare for 2018 wildfires.
- In the room can I have a quick raise of hands of those who want to share a couple lessons learned?
- And on the webinar can you quickly type into the chat box if you have something you want to share?
- (timekeeper estimate about how much time each person has: 30 min/#of hands and 7s)
- Alternate room and phone lessons learned. On phone go down the list.

@11:30: Themes and Prioritization of Afternoon Topics (15 minutes) - Meredith and Andrea Nicks

- **Meredith:** We are going to take about 15 minutes now before breaking for lunch to set the stage for the afternoon
- To help us do that, Andrea Nicks from the USFS is going to provide a summary of the survey responses people filled out before attending the meeting and will identify some of the themes that came up during the morning sessions.
- **Andrea:** Provide survey summary
- **Andrea:** identify some of the themes around lessons learned and needs that came up in the morning sessions from your notetaking
- **Charles:** Capture topics on flipchart
- **Meredith:** After lunch we are going to be spending a few hours figuring out which of these issues we really need to work on in 2018 to do an even better job with smoke response and developing a plan to make some progress on these in the coming months. To help frame and prioritize that discussion I'm going to read these topics off the flipchart list one by one and want people to raise their hand if the topic is one of their top two priorities for the afternoon discussion. Charles: Star topics with raised hands.
- **Meredith:** Lunch plans
OK we have a full plate of things to discuss in the afternoon, so go fuel up and be back at the building by 12:45 to allow plenty of time for security and slow elevators. We have a list of lunch options and some maps that Dena will orient you to.
 - **Dena: Lunch options**